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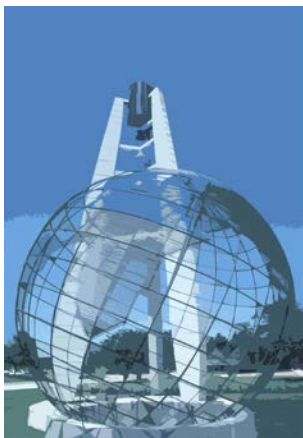
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GSUniverse

Governors State University's Weekly Newsletter

August 19 - 23, 2002

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"...it is a lack of confidence, more than anything else, that kills a civilization." Kenneth Clark

Message from the President

In a clear violation of the editorial policy I set for *GSUniverse*, I make this statement to our University Community. This is not a "feel good" statement from me, the president. I want to talk about a real issue. Our Charter School is under attack and by implication, so is our university. We're getting out the facts. We're pointing out that the charter was revoked on "trumped-up charges," as one reporter said. We're being aggressive. As an example, we're initiating contact with the media to show that charter school test results, which have been leaked to the press, have been misrepresented. In dealing with the press, we're telling the truth, whether the news is good or bad. I'm proud of this university and its students, faculty and graduates. To use the slang, "We won't be dissed." We're good at what we do, and we're going to tell that to the world.

Charter School Saga, Take I

As everyone knows, Crete Monee School District 201-U revoked the charter of GSU's Charter School. A representative of the interim director of the Illinois State Board of Education upheld the revocation. The President's Cabinet met with officials of the Crete-Monee School District 201-U on August 12 at a meeting called by Al McCowan, President of University Park. The school board refused to discuss ways to compromise on the issues so that the school could open September 3. District representatives said that funds for the charter school should be reallocated to the district as a whole.

Take II

On August 13, Governors State filed suit in the Seventh Circuit Court asking for a stay of the revocation. The following day, the court set a hearing for August 19. The Illinois State Board of Education meets on August 21.

Take III

The district is arguing that test scores of students on the California Terra Nova Tests should have been greater. "Give me a break. That's like telling me that the home run I hit into the fifth row of the bleachers should have been in the fifteenth row," Chuck Connolly, Executive Director of Marketing and Communications told the media. "A home run is a home run. And we're hitting home runs." Susan Kinsey, director of the Family Development Center said, "Our children are out-performing their anticipated potential. We took tests that project how the children should perform. We were especially interested in the at risk students. Guess what? Their test scores exceeded expectations by nearly 28 percent. Look at the facts." Connolly and Kinsey told the media that the ISAT test results for third graders, which were leaked to some media, are meaningless for several reasons. As an example, of the 13 students tested, five have been identified as special education students who should not have been included in the pool.

Take IV

University enrollment has taken a hit in part because of the Charter School issue, although other factors are contributing to the decline. Stories and editorials in the local and Chicago press have been fair and balanced for the most part, but headlines have led some people to believe that the University itself is closing. A few weeks ago, enrollment was up more than five percent over the same period last year. As of August 15, enrollment is down slightly for the same period. It hurts when the headline in a paper reads: *GSU to Close School*, even though the story itself is clearly about the charter school. In response, the university is stepping up its advertising and publicity in the days that remain before Fall Trimester classes begin.

It's a "topsy turvy" world

At GSU, we never have problems getting volunteers for Commencement, a time when students are leaving our hallowed halls in search of professional and life success. Conversely, during Welcome Week, it's downright difficult to get enough volunteers to meet and greet students who have selected GSU over all other institutions in their search for a quality education. It's more important to say hello than to say goodbye. We need volunteers for Welcome Week -- August 26 – 29 – to help students make the transition into the new school year with a smile of satisfaction. The old maxim still holds true: the best form of advertising is word-of-mouth. To volunteer, call Larry Poselli, extension 3148, or Loraine Sibbet, extension 4555.

Appealing to your taste

During Welcome Week, Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) will sell a special discount card for Krispy Kreme donuts and raffle gifts that were donated by area businesses. The group will also take advance orders for T-shirts and sweatshirts for its members. CSI is raising funds to help pay for equipment used in the Counseling Division. The group is the professional honor society for counselors. GSU student counselors provide free counseling to the community. On that same note, the GSU chapter of the Illinois Counseling Association will run the "Pampered Chef" fundraiser, and will sell high quality kitchen equipment for the gourmet cook. ICA will use the funds to bring Dr. Paul Pedersen to GSU for a seminar in the Fall. Dr. Pedersen is a renowned expert in multicultural counseling and diversity issues.

Jewel-Osco "Shop and Share"

We're happy to report that Chi Sigma Iota's July fundraiser went well, netting more than \$5,000 for the grocery chain. CSI received \$260.

Cafeteria Closing

For those of you who routinely dine at the GSU cafeteria, you might want to make other plans next week. The cafeteria will be closed from August 19 – 23. If you don't want to brown bag it or make the rounds of nearby restaurants, the Civil Service Senate will offer a grilled lunch selection. For a small price you can get the works ---hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks.

August Happenings

Saturday, August 31, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. -- Starting A Business-- Questions and Answers

Everything you need to know about starting a business will be discussed at this two-hour-long session. The workshop will be held on campus in Room D-1408. The cost is only \$15.